

“so often we overlook the work and significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs . . . Whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity,” Dr. King said, “it has dignity and it has worth.” He said that “no labor is really menial unless you’re not getting adequate wages.”

I think about the campaign Dr. King waged when he was assassinated. We will never forget that he was martyred in Memphis while fighting for some of the most exploited workers in the country: sanitation workers in segregated Memphis.

We know too many workers face a similar exploitation today. We have seen, over the past 2 years, how many workers corporations call essential but treat as expendable. It is their whole business model.

It is not a coincidence that many of those workers look like the ones for whom Dr. King was fighting for, that they are not the ones in the so-called—his words—“big jobs.”

When on occasion, a company tries to do the right thing when they announce a pay raise or investment in workers, often Wall Street punishes them.

This week, Starbucks—a corporation currently fighting its own workers trying to organize a union—announced they are throwing a bone to workers. The company is going to do a little tiny bit less in executive compensation in the form of stock buybacks this year and do some investment in the workers instead, and their stock price went down. The Wall Street business model doesn’t just do nothing for workers—pardon the grammar—it actively discourages investment in workers.

It has to change. Until hard work pays off for all workers, Dr. King’s work remains unfinished. That means paying all workers a living wage. Senator WARNOCK is still on the floor, and Senator BALDWIN, the Presiding Officer, are two of the people that fight the hardest for that.

All workers must make a living wage, have more power over their schedule, provide good benefits and safety on the job, and not fight organizing a union. That means all workers get a fair share of the wealth that they create. It means recognizing the dignity of the communities that Black Americans have built over generations. That is how we bring ourselves closer to the society that Dr. King envisioned where all labor has dignity.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Judge Ketanji Brown

Jackson’s confirmation to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States and look forward to proudly voting for her confirmation.

There are few constitutional duties more important in my role as a U.S. Senator than providing the advice and consent on judicial nominations, and this is especially true for the Supreme Court.

As we consider Judge Jackson’s nomination before this body, we are on the cusp of a historic, barrier-breaking moment and on the verge of confirming the first African-American woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

This is not only a significant milestone, but a moment to recognize Judge Jackson, who is one of our Nation’s brightest legal minds and an incredibly impressive nominee.

Before I talk about Judge Jackson’s exceptional experience, her qualifications, and support from all across the legal spectrum, I think it is important to reflect on the critical importance of our Nation’s highest Court.

Without question, Supreme Court rulings have a direct and a consequential impact on the lives of Michiganders and all Americans. Issues before the Court include healthcare, women’s reproductive rights, workers’ rights, environmental protections, voting rights, and many life-or-death decisions that shape the law of the land.

Simply put, the Supreme Court is often the last line of defense for everyday Americans and an important guardian of the Constitution itself.

There is no question that a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court is a tremendous responsibility, and we must have qualified, committed Justices who will exercise judicial independence—follow the facts—and apply law and precedent fairly and impartially, without regard for their own personal views, partisanship, or politics.

It is clear that on every single measure, Judge Jackson has the credentials, the qualities, the work ethic, and character needed to serve on the Supreme Court. And she will not only bring diversity but a unique life perspective and passion for the law that she developed at a very young age.

Judge Jackson’s interest in the law actually started as a preschooler, sitting next to her father while he studied cases for law school, while she worked on her coloring book.

Despite being ambitious and a star student, growing up, Judge Jackson faced resistance. When Judge Jackson told her high school guidance counselor that she was interested in attending Harvard University, the counselor told her that maybe she should set her sights lower than that.

Judge Jackson was not going to be deterred, and she credits her high school debate coach for introducing her to several colleges. And then she went on to graduate magna cum laude from Harvard as an undergraduate and cum laude from Harvard Law School.

This was the beginning of Judge Jackson’s distinguished legal career. She clerked for three Federal judges, including Supreme Court Justice Breyer, worked in private practice at prestigious law firms, and has served on the Federal bench on both the district court and the court of appeals, a position she was confirmed to just last year by bipartisan support by this very Senate.

Judge Jackson’s experience has also been shaped by representing everyday Americans and hearing their cases. She will be the first Justice who previously served as a Federal public defender, and the only Justice who has served as a member of the bipartisan U.S. Sentencing Commission. She will also bring considerable criminal law experience to the Court.

Her breadth of experience, her record, and temperament were on full display during her Senate judiciary confirmation hearing. Over the course of 24 hours and more than 600 questions, Judge Jackson not only demonstrated why she is qualified to serve on the Supreme Court but also why she was unflappable, even when she faced outrageous—absolutely outrageous—false attacks on her record during the committee hearings.

During this process, Judge Jackson has not only earned bipartisan support for her confirmation but has the backing of diverse voices, including from the American Bar Association, which unanimously gave her its highest rating of “well qualified.”

Lawyers across the political spectrum, civil rights organization, law enforcement groups, and chambers of commerce have all offered not just support but glowing support for her nomination.

Former George H. W. Bush’s appointed Fourth Circuit Judge Michael Luttig called Judge Jackson “eminently qualified” and “as highly credentialed and experienced in the law as any nominee in history.”

Two dozen conservative and former Republican-appointed officials said:

We are united in our view that she is exceptionally well-qualified, given her breadth of experience, her demonstrated ability, and personal attributes of intellect and character. We think that her confirmation on a consensus basis would strengthen the court and the nation in important ways.

And the International Association of Chiefs of Police said:

During her time as judge, she has displayed her dedication to ensuring that our communities are safe and that the interest[s] of justice are served. [We believe that] Judge Jackson’s years of experience have shown [that] she has the temperament and qualifications to serve as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

After my one-on-one meeting with Judge Jackson last week, I was convinced that she is extraordinarily qualified and prepared to serve on the Supreme Court, particularly at this challenging moment.

This is, without question, a challenging time, not only for the Supreme

Court but also for our democracy, and it is clear that Judge Jackson has the extensive experience and qualifications and temperament and impartiality and fidelity to the law that will undoubtedly serve our Nation exceptionally well.

I am proud to support Judge Jackson as our next Supreme Court Justice, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in making history.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

UKRAINE

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, Russia's invasion into Ukraine is changing the global order, the likes of which the world has not witnessed since the end of the Cold War. Vladimir Putin launched an unprovoked and brutal war—one that left the United States and our allies shocked and enraged. The global response to Putin's provocation was a mix of sharp words, hastily delivered weapons, and targeted sanctions, but even as we speak, the actions from the Biden administration are still too weak.

As airwaves were flooded with messages of support and solidarity with Ukraine, one major power was very vocal in their support against Ukraine, and that was China.

China vocally took Russia's side very quickly. The two countries share a land border, but they also issued a statement of solidarity on February 4, just 20 days before the invasion. And there is no doubt that China is looking at the Western response to the war unfolding in Ukraine, and it plans to consume its neighbor, Taiwan, in the same fashion.

Yesterday, an article in the New York Times detailed the lengths China is going to in order to convince its people that their support for Russia is righteous and their hatred of the West is justified. The article goes on to outline China's pro-Putin propaganda, stating:

Chinese universities have organized classes to give students a "correct understanding" of the war, often highlighting Russia's grievances with the West. Party newspapers have run a series of commentaries blaming the United States of America for the conflict.

China's political posturing should be taken very, very seriously. The CCP is building the foundation for its future actions. Since 1949, the Chinese Communist Party has been eyeing Taiwan and patiently waiting. They have not attacked because the United States and other free nations have strengthened the tiny island. That is the essence of deterrence. We want Xi Jinping to look out his window each morning and think: Not today.

Our President's response to Russia's invading Ukraine has not inspired confidence in the Pacific. Joseph Wu, Taiwan's Foreign Minister, recently stated:

When we watch the events in Ukraine evolving . . . we are also watching very carefully what China may do [to us] in Taiwan.

Alarming, the White House is indifferent to the warming relations between China and Russia. When asked about a recent call between President Biden and President Xi, regarding the war in Ukraine, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, in part:

China has to make a decision for themselves about where they want to stand.

In July, President Biden's climate czar, John Kerry, said that he is "genuine friends with China" and continued to praise President Xi.

Let's get this straight. Russia and China both stand against the United States. Neither country is our friend—period. Both seek to expand authoritarian world order and diminish American leadership. The key difference is that Russia is a small bully, but China is a huge, huge threat.

China's growing economy affords its growing ambition. China became the world's largest exporting nation in 2009, and today, China controls the world's supply of titanium, rare earth metals, shipbuilding, and clothing manufacturing, among others.

China seeks to control the South China Sea and all the trade that flows through it. China wants to replace the dollar as the global reserve currency and aims to exceed the military might of the United States.

And there is no secret—there is no secret at all—that China wants Taiwan's semiconductor industry.

Semiconductors power our everyday life. If it has an on-and-off switch, it has a chip. Chips are even found nearly everywhere, from our credit cards to our phones, to the processors in our weapons, and even in our satellites.

For the sake of our national security, we need to increase domestic investment and produce these chips on American soil.

Currently, the Taiwan-based Semiconductor Manufacturing Company is responsible for over 90 percent—90 percent—of these chips, one small, little island.

Over the last decade, China has made investments in their domestic semiconductor industry, but Chinese-produced chips don't match the quality of those in Taiwan.

While Taiwan's semiconductor industry is second to none, American markets have experienced a surge in private sector investment and domestic production.

In the past year alone, private sector investment in domestic semiconductor manufacturing increased to \$127 billion, with all signs indicating continued growth and investment in the years to come here in the United States.

And that is the way growth and innovation should happen, through the private sector, not Federal funding. Continued reliance on offshore suppliers for these chips poses too great a threat and risk to the supply chains from the CCP.

As we saw with Putin in the years prior to his invasion of Ukraine, Chi-

nese leaders are clear about their plans for Taiwan.

Just last year, the CCP warned of "drastic measures" if Taiwan declares independence. Taiwan is independent. Beijing refuses to recognize and reckon with reality.

To deter Chinese aggression, the United States must have our forces in the Pacific modernized and ready at any time. That is why it was a major win that last year's NDAA secured funding for a robust missile defense system for Guam to counter CCP-launched cruise or ballistic missiles. Guam is our first line of defense from these, home to 160,000 Americans who are forward-deployed to defend the west coast and our country. Guam is the first island to defend.

However, as the CCP has continued to grow its military capabilities over the last decade, our own military has been hampered by cuts to defense spending, leaving our artillery antiquated and our defense capabilities weakened.

President Biden has been no different, offering up disappointing cuts to defense priorities in both of his first two budgets. These cuts most certainly caught the attention of our adversaries. This is yet another example of how sorely out of touch with reality the Biden administration is when it comes to defense. We cannot—we cannot—continue to ask our men and women in uniform to do more with less, especially with China watching everything that we do.

While the world focuses on Eastern Europe, we must remain focused on Beijing. China is watching every move we make with regard to Putin, and they are taking notes.

We cannot allow Vladimir Putin's war to set a dangerous precedent. We must not make the same mistakes with Taiwan that the administration made with Ukraine, and that begins by sending a strong, clear message to our allies and adversaries that America will always be the world's most foremost superpower.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, in poll after poll, most respondents blame President Biden's policies for the increasing inflation and especially higher gas prices.

NBC:

Biden's job approval falls to the lowest level of his presidency amid war and inflation fears.

In Gallup's poll, which they dubbed "Americans Offer Gloomy State of Nation Report" in February—before the